

From: Forkazoo2@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 5:01pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to say I consider the current proposal for the Microsoft Settlement to be inadequate. I am not a zealot, and I don't hate Microsoft. I don't think Microsoft is evil, or anything like that. I think that they are a monopoly. A monopoly that has acted illegally. Having acted illegally, it is necessary that Microsoft be punished. Without punishment, there will not be justice.

I have been reading through the finding of fact:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/atr/cases/f3800/msjudgex.htm> In doing so, I have come across some interesting quotes that piqued my interest, such as:

143. Decision-makers at Microsoft worried that simply developing its own attractive browser product, pricing it at zero, and promoting it vigorously would not divert enough browser usage from Navigator to neutralize it as a platform. <...snip...> If Microsoft was going to raise Internet Explorer's share of browser usage and lower Navigator's share, executives at Microsoft believed they needed to constrict Netscape's access to the distribution channels that led most efficiently to browser usage.

Such anti-competitive activities as this, and a wide variety of other things can not go ignored and unpunished.

Among other things, I work as a programmer. Recently, I have started working in Java. (the language from Sun Microsystems). In researching various aspects of Java for work, I have been reading extensively about Microsoft's infamous battles with Sun. At one point, I found the whole thing kind of amusing, but quite frankly, Microsoft's actions, especially regarding Java, have hurt my ability to work effectively on projects in Java. It isn't funny. It hurts programmer's ability to work, unless they work only on Windows and IE specific projects.

Also, because Microsoft used anti-competitive strategies to market Internet Explorer, and IE became to most commonly used browser on the web, my company's website is optimised for IE. Because IE is in many ways incompatible with various standards, "optimising" our website for IE has forced us to make it largely incompatible with other browsers. Thus, the incompatibilities in IE force users to use IE to browse our website (and many others). This makes it very, very difficult for other browsers to gain popularity.

Such anti-competitive practices are hurtful to the economy, individuals, corporations, and as long as I am forced to work in IT, my sanity.

Once again, I wish to make it very clear: The current settlement is *not adequate.* I strongly hope that the DOJ puts some proverbial smack down, and opens up an equally proverbial can of whoop ass. (please excuse my somewhat crude references.)